DEMAND IV—FOREST.

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: Sir, I rise to move that the House be pleased to grant Rs. 11,73,329 under Demand IV—Forest.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, in supporting this demand I wish to bring to the notice of the Conservator of Forests the necessity for increasing the license fee for collecting *eatta*. I understand that in the northern taluks especially in Kaladi a man who gets license for collecting these reeds can make as much as 30 to 40 rupees per day because of the abnormal demand for baskets and other things made out of this reed. A thousand of these reeds which fetched only Rs. 16 now fetch about Rs. 160. Unless we increase the rate even by tomorrow we will be losing an important source of income to the State. There will also be the tendency of depleting the forests by *eatta* growth. So from the point of view of both Conservation of Forests as well as enhancement of revenue it is absolutely necessary that the license fee should be considerably enhanced.

Mr. T. W. U. Park: May I know whether *eatta* does not decay of its own accord ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Even kingdoms come and go. That is part of the nature's law.

I also congratulate the Conservator of Forests on the increase of income to the department. I am very glad that the Conservator has made such a good income from the department. At the same time I would very gently remind the Conservator that he must not resist the temptation of increasing the revenue. I know that he needs no preaching that the present state of affairs is the result of years of conservation. In the past we have been a little independent in the matter of utilisation of the forest resources. I am glad that since Dr. Kamesam came here we have been laying greater emphasis on the utilisation of forest resources. I wish that the department shows a greater income.

I congratulate the Conservator of Forests for not yielding to the temptation of surrendering to the often meaningless clamour for throwing open forests for cultivation purposes.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: I also support the motion. In doing so I wish to draw the attention of the Conservator of Forests to the inordinate delay in the disbursement of Kudivila dues. Even after the taluk certificate has been furnished and after the production of every available document, the forest authorities hesitate to settle the dues. I know of cases pending for more than 25 years in which money has not been paid even though notification has been made in the Government gazette.

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The subordinate clerks dealing with this matter are primarily responsible for this delay, as we know the settlement of Kudivila dues offers great temptations to them, and I urge that this deserves looking into by the Conservator and a more prompt and expeditious disposal is brought about.

I fail to see, Sir, any justification or necessity for retaining such a costly, superannuated officer as the Game Warden.

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: May I point out to the member that that does not come under Forest Demand.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: I am so sorry, Sir. As game cannot be conceived without forests, I thought the Game Warden necessarily came under the Forest Demand.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I am very happy to tell before the House that the present Conservator of Forests has got a very kind eye towards the waterlogged area, I mean Kuttanad in so far as he has been able to devote some time to find out a substitute for the shrubs that are required for putting up bunds around the paddy fields in the Kuttanad area. Day before yesterday he was good enough to show me his garden where he has planted some sort of grass which I think will be very useful for the Kuttanad area.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: May I know whether there is enough quantity?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: He told me that they are available in large quantities in our forests.

Another thing which I want him to do for the benefit of the agricultural people is to make use of the green leaves of the forests as compost manure to be made ready for use in the puncha lands. The green manure as it is could not be applied in those fields because the period of cultivation there is very short so much so we have to find out some compost manure out of green leaf. I hope the Conservator of Forests will be able to solve that problem.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether manufacture of compost manure is not the work of his official cousin, I mean the Director of Agriculture?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: It will be easy if the Conservator of Forests will collaborate with his cousin.

Another thing which has attracted my attention is that when I go from Trivandrum to my native place by the Main Central Road and by the Trivandrum—Quilon road I see so many hills here and there without any vegetation whatsoever. When I come to Trivandrum many people are telling me that fuel is getting dear day by day and that the price of fuel has gone up 200 to 300 per cent.

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[Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar.]

and it is even feared that we will not be able to get any fuel at all after a few years. At a time when our country is to be industrialised the necessity for more fuel will be very keenly felt.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Is it not because of Mr. Salter's onslaught on fuel?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Yes, Mr. Salter consumes a lot of our wood. So it is highly necessary that we should have some forest areas in the vicinity of the town for growing fuel trees. I ask why the Conservator should not try to grow fuel trees on such hills as an experiment? With these words I support the demand.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: I also support the demand and congratulate the Conservator on his successful administration of the department.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: I cannot hear the member.

President: The honourable member will kindly raise his voice.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: From the Administration Report of the Department at page 27 it is seen that tamarind trees plantation is tried in the forests and that the same is a failure. I submit that the same may not be tried any more since such plantations can flourish only in the plains. I also understand that there are large quantities of fuel available in the forests and no use is made of them. There is a severe scarcity of fuel at the present time in the towns. If some arrangements could be made for the fuel to be stored in towns and sold at reasonable prices it will be an additional source of income to the department and a great benefit to the people. Of course there are some difficulties.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether the expense for taking them from the forests to the towns will not be very prohibitive?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Notwithstanding that with the help of the Transport Department I think it can be made possible to bring the fuel to the towns. In that case it will be of much use to the people. They can be brought down easily through rivers in which case it will be very cheap. I bring this to the notice of the department.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: I also support the demand. At the same time I wish to draw the attention of the department to one or two points. I understand that some attempt has been made for the cultivation of beedi leaves by the Agricultural Department. I had a talk, this morning, with the member for Agriculture and he told me that the experiment so far conducted was successful. If it is conducted on a larger scale in hilly tracts where there is very

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little rainfall I think it would be a profitable concern. This experiment can be tried by the Forest Department in and around the hills of Bhoothapandy, Azhakiapandipuram and such other dry areas.

Another thing to which I want to draw the attention of Government is that sandal trees can be cultivated in our forests on a commercial scale. The income from sandal wood and sandal wood oil is one of the main items of income in the Mysore State and as we are also having plenty of hills and enjoying the same climate we can easily grow them in our State. Therefore I would request the Conservator of Forests to conduct this experiment. I understand Sir, that even now we are getting some revenue from this item. But my submission is that we must cultivate these trees on a large scale so as to get a decent income from that cultivation.

With regard to fuel, I may say that it may not be convenient or possible to make them available to the people in different parts of the State. I suggest therefore that at least the demand for charcoal for the Transport Department may be met from our forests if the Conservator would pay a little more attention in this matter. More over the policy of the Transport Department is to convert all the existing vehicles to those which would run by producer gas. Already a successful attempt has been made in this direction and now 50 per cent. of the vehicles run on charcoal gas. If contracts are given for the supply of this charcoal to individuals it would be a loss to the department. Therefore I trust that this matter will be attended to by the Forest Department.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : Does the member mean that everything concerning the Transport Department must be taken over by Government?

Mr K. M. Kesavan : Far from it. Wherever it is feasible, wherever it is possible and wherever it is conducive to the benefit of the people, such things may be taken over by Government (hear, hear).

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Sir I also agree with the previous speakers in expressing my appreciation of the work done by the present Conservator of Forests. But I may also state with the best of spirits that this department is one which needs strict control over its subordinate officers. Next to the Excise Department, this department has the greatest scope for corruption. It needs effective supervision over the work turned out by the subordinates especially as the parties to corruption are never aggrieved but the parties affected are the Government themselves. The giver and the taker of the bribe work against Government interests. By this I do not mean that corruption is rampant in the department, but this is a department where corruption can cause great loss to Government. I request the Head of the Department therefore to have strict control over his subordinates with this purpose in mind.

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Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : സർ, ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുക്കുടി വേണ്ട പരിശ്രമം ചെയ്യേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഫാറസ്റ്റുകളിൽ അനേകം മരങ്ങൾ നിൽപ്പുണ്ടെങ്കിലും വെളിസ്ഥലങ്ങളും ധാരാളം കിടപ്പുണ്ട്. പഞ്ഞപ്പുല്ല എന്നു പറയുന്ന ഒരു സാധനം ഉണ്ട്. അതു് വളരെ വിറ്റാമിൻ ഉള്ളതാണ്. അരിയേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായ ഒരു സാധനമാണതു്. ഈ പഞ്ഞപ്പുല്ലു് ഫാറസ്റ്റുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് നേരിട്ടു കൃഷിചെയ്താലും തരക്കേടില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. മറുപലതും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു നേരിട്ടു കൃഷിനടത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള കൃഷികളും ഫാറസ്റ്റുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും നടത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നാണു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ബൗണ്ടറികൾ ശരിയായി സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ബൌണ്ടറികൾ ശരിയായി തിരിച്ചറിയാനുള്ള റിക്കാർഡുകൾ എല്ലായിടത്തുമുണ്ടോ എന്നും ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. ഫാറസ്റ്റു റിക്കാർഡനുസരിച്ചു വനമായി കിടക്കുന്ന ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ റവന്യൂ സെറ്റിൽമെൻറു രജിസ്റ്ററിൽ തരിശ്ശു് എന്നു കാണുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാറുണ്ട്. ഈ തരിശ്ശു ലാൻറുകൾ വനത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടുന്നതായാൽ ഉടൻതന്നെ സെറ്റിൽമെൻറു രജിസ്റ്ററിൽ ഫാറസ്റ്റായി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും സർവേ ചെയ്തു വേണ്ട റിക്കാർഡുകൾ പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യണം. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള കുഴപ്പങ്ങൾക്കു് ഇടവന്നേക്കും. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നു പല തവണയും തടികൾ വെട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു ലേലം ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരേർപ്പാടുണ്ട്. അതിനുള്ള നോട്ടീസുകൾ ശരിയായി നടത്തുന്നില്ലെന്നു പല പരാതികളും ഉണ്ട്. ചില ആഫീസുകളിൽ അവക്കു സ്വാധീനമുള്ള കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാരെ ഈ വിവരം നേരിട്ടറിയിക്കുകയും മറുള്ളവർ അറിയാതിരിക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ രഹസ്യമായി ലേലം ചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ, ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ ലാഭമുണ്ടാക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു്, ചുരുങ്ങിയ റേറിനു് കൺട്രാക്ടു് എടുക്കാൻ തയ്യാറുള്ളവക്കു കൊടുക്കുകയില്ല എന്നു തോന്നുമാറു ശരിയായി നോട്ടീസുകൾ നടത്താതെ ചില ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കൺട്രാക്ടു് കൊടുക്കുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നു. നെല്ലിനുക്ഷാമമുള്ള് ഇക്കാലത്തു് മേവികുളത്തു ചില ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്ത നിലങ്ങളിൽ ചന്ദനച്ചെടികൾ ധാരാളം മുളച്ചുനിൽപ്പുണ്ട്. മുമ്പു് ഇവിടങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷി

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ചെയ്താൽ കൃഷിച്ചെലവുപോലും കിട്ടാത്തകാലമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ കൃഷിചെയ്യാതെ ഒഴിച്ചിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലാണ് ഇന്നു ചന്ദനച്ചെടികൾ മുളച്ചു നിൽക്കുന്നത്. പട്ടയംപിടിച്ചു കരം കൊടുത്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഭൂമിയിലായാലും ചന്ദനം മുളച്ചാൽ ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനാണ് അതിന്റെ അവകാശം. ഇക്കാലത്തു് ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്താൽ വസ്തു ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാക്കു നഷ്ടംവരുന്നതിനു് ഇടയില്ല. എന്നാൽ കന്നുകാലികളെക്കൊണ്ടു് കൃഷിക്കായി വേല നടത്തുമ്പോൾ ഈ ചെടികൾക്കു കേടോ, നാശമോ വരാം. ഈ ചെടികൾ അവിടെ നിൽക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ വരുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരം കിടക്കുന്ന ഭൂമികൾ ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടു്. ഇതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുകൂടി ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja (*Edavaga*) : Sir, I support the demand. In doing so I should like to impress upon the Government the necessity of conserving our forests to a greater extent. Had it not been for our long continued policy of conserving our forests it wood not have been possible to get a steady income from our forests as we were getting for the past 3 or 4 years. It is quite true that our forests have been a good source of revenue. Some of the predecessors of the present Conservator have utilised the timber and other forest resources to the greatest extent possible and have brought to the State more revenue. But in order that our income may not diminish it is quite necessary to cultivate more and more timber in our forests. On any account we must not deplete our forests. Sir, we have been hearing the cry that our forest areas should be registered in favour of the people in order to meet the needs of the growing population in the matter of food supply. I agree with that view to some extent. But the principle of conservation of forests should be primarily considered so that in future years also it may stand as a good source of revenue to the State. With these words I support the Demand.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*) : Sir, the most important problem that confronts us today is the food problem. To solve this problem we will have to resort to extensive cultivation. For that purpose some acres of the forest land should be set apart. There are very many acres of swampy areas in our forests. Many of these swamps were once occupied and cultivated by the ryots. Subsequently for the proper conservation of the forests, these areas were afforested and preserved as swamps. At this critical time it will be good if Government will consider about the possibility of utilising these lands for cultivation of paddy. All will admit that we require more lands for cultivation

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[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

of food crops. The Government may ask the Conservator of Forests to assign these swampy areas to the ryots. If the Conservator deems it not advisable to give these lands for cultivation to the people then I would suggest that the Forest Department in collaboration with the Agricultural Department would take up the responsibility of cultivating these swampy areas for the production of paddy. This can be done as a temporary measure. If this is done our food problem can be easily solved.

Sir, some of my friends have stated that for dry cultivation also some portions of the forest land should be set apart. It will be convenient for the cultivators if the Conservator of Forests allots some lands on the road side. At present Sir, the agriculturists find great difficulties in the matter of obtaining green manure and fodder for their cattle. Therefore it would be convenient if some portion of the forest area is set apart for the plantation of green manure trees and for the cultivation of grass.

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: At the very outset, may I express my deep sense of gratitude to this honourable House for all the good things that have been kindly said by the honourable members of my administration. It has been my endeavour ever since I took charge of this Department to carefully preserve the valuable State Forests without unduly affecting the necessities of the population of the State. I am glad to see that this honourable House has realised that I have been doing my best in this direction.

It has been recently noticed that the price of reeds near Malayattur has gone up considerably and the question of increasing the seignorage is now under consideration. But it requires very careful investigation, because most of the reeds that go out from Malayattur are used for cottage industries which are the mainstay of the poor people. I may assure the honourable members that this matter will be gone into very carefully before any increase in seignorage is recommended to Government.

The question of fuel production in our forests has been engaging my attention for the last few days and I have been able to recommend to one of the honourable members a very good fuel species for production on plantation scale, either on private land or on Government land. I am perfectly certain that it is a very easy tree to grow, and a very good fuel too. I hope that within a year or two the honourable member to whom this tree has been recommended will be able to inform this House of the progress made by him in this behalf.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know the name of that tree?

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Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: The name is Korukkapuli.

This plant grows all over India. It is large in size. There are a number of such trees which have grown to 3 or 4 feet in girth at Trivandrum during the last 12 years.

Regarding fuel supply to various areas, rural as well as town, I may inform this House that it is purely a question of economic transport from distant areas to the centres of consumption. If cheap transport be available, it should be possible to supply firewood to the centres of consumption, at an economic price. But as far as I have ascertained, the price of firewood has increased somewhat in towns alone. There is really no scarcity of firewood yet. When a demand arises the Forest Department will meet it from the reserved forests of the State. That problem is being kept in view when the afforestation of bleak areas referred to by an honourable member is being taken up. In this connection, I may inform the honourable members of this House that about 800 acres of bleak areas containing only grass have been placed at the disposal of the public for raising food crops along with afforestation work. In about 600 acres cultivation is already going on and I am awaiting applications for the remaining 200 acres.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: In which part please?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: In several areas but mainly in the Trivandrum Division in places like Azhur and Thonnakkal Reserves.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know whether these details were published in the Gazette?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: Certainly, they were advertised in the Gazette?

Sir, there is a demand for growing beedi leaves in the State. This matter was taken up not by the Agricultural Department, I may be allowed to make a correction in this respect. It was started by the Forest Department some 6 years ago. The necessary seeds were obtained from Hyderabad and sown in several small areas. The results have been encouraging. A special subordinate was sent to Hyderabad to ascertain how these beedi leaves may be cured and marketed. During last year, our department was able to sell leaves worth Rs. 21. In 1117, the amount fetched by way of sales came to Rs. 65.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: May I know, whether the quality is good?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: The merchants who have purchased our beedi leaves and who know about the Hyderabad leaves, have reported very satisfactorily about the quality of the leaves. Leaves similar to Hyderabad beedi leaves

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[Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar]

occur naturally in our reserve forests. Those leaves are also marketed. But they are found to be not up to the quality of the leaves from the Hyderabad plants. This matter has been engaging my attention since last year, when five acres were planted with the Hyderabad beedi leaf plant. In 1117, the area has been increased to 16 acres. If the results prove encouraging, as they appear to be so far, cultivation will be extended more considerably.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know when could appreciable results be known in such plantations ?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar : In about 10 years.

Sir, the necessity for exercising more supervision on the subordinates of this department has been impressed on me by one honourable member. This has not been lost sight of. It may interest the honourable member to know that the Conservator himself has gone out at midnight and detected offences connived at by the subordinates. It is not one of my primary duties to go about to detect offences, as a rule, but I hope I have made it clear that that duty is also receiving due attention. I hope it would instil sufficient fear into the minds of subordinates to keep out of mischief.

Sir, a complaint has been brought forward that advertisements for supply contracts were not given sufficient publicity. There is a standing rule with Government that all advertisements for supply, contracts or sales, should be published in the Government Gazette one full month ahead. Not only that, but hand bills are also sent out to all prospective purchasers. I do not think that Government can afford to do anything better than this.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know whether advertisements are made in vernacular papers so that rural parts in this country may have knowledge of the same ? Is the same matter supplied to outside papers as well ?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar : Yes, Sir. When Government think that there is not sufficient demand from people in this State and a demand exists outside the State, certainly then advertisements are published in outside papers.

The question of raising more plantations has also engaged my attention for the last 3 years. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the past administration had confined itself to plantations of teak only in this State. Since last year, attempts have been made to grow soft woods and jungle woods—soft woods such as Elavu and Cheeni and jungle woods like vengai, thembavu, blackwood and anjili.

In my opinion, various kinds of jungle woods can be successfully grown here. It is hoped that the department will be able to raise them from next year onwards. It is the policy of this

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department to plant up increasing areas with useful jungle woods year after year.

Sir, after noting with satisfaction the very sound forest sense that has been exhibited by this House early in the course of the proceedings of the day, it was rather a shock to me to find an honourable member demanding the assignment of swampy areas within reserve forests. Sir, the assignment of swampy areas within the reserves is beset with very great danger. I must strongly resist any attempt to enter our reserve forests on the plea of cultivating swampy areas and slowly infiltrating into the reserves and thereby damaging them permanently.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: May I know whether anybody has done so?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: Yes. Some of the swamps inside the reserves are being cultivated and the amount of damage that is being done all around such swampy areas is very easily noticeable.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know whether the honourable member has any objection to seeing to the temporary cultivation of those areas under his direct control and supervision so that damage may not be caused to the reserves?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: The question of temporary cultivation of swampy areas within the reserve forests has engaged the attention of Government during these few months and applications for such leases have been favourably considered by them. Each case has been gone into carefully and if any permanent injury is not likely to result by such temporary cultivation, leases have been recommended. The department has already recommended to Government the grant of leases in two or three cases. It will certainly be the policy of this department to recommend to Government further cases after going into each individually, provided no permanent damage is likely to result thereby.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I ask whether such places are not intended for the preservation of fauna which are some times found essential in the interests of the country?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: Yes, Sir, for the preservation of fauna too, such areas, have to be protected. It is not the intention of Government to permanently assign away such lands. In cases of emergency, such as the present one, it is the duty of Government to see that as much food as possible is grown so that the population of the State may not be starved.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know, where are those forest areas that have been recommended for afforestation?

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Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: Which areas please ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: The honourable member referred to certain swampy areas. I want to know which part of the reserve forest is that ?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: Some are in Konni Reserve, some near Vandanmet and some others beyond Arakulam.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: ആ സ്ഥലം എല്ലാം ഗവണ്മെൻറു പൊന്നുംവില കൊടുത്തു തിരിയെ എടുപ്പിക്കുകയല്ലേ നല്ലതു?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: Yes, Sir. But the Government have to consider the amount of money that may be involved in such cases. It may be quite out of proportion to the benefits that may accrue later on.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: ഫാറസ്റ്റ് നശിപ്പിക്കുന്നു എന്ന കാരണത്താൽ പൊന്നുംവില കൊടുക്കാതെ തന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്കു എടുക്കരുതോ?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: This is a question which requires mature consideration. If the honourable members will support such a move, I think, Government may, after mature consideration, be prepared to accept it.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലെന്നാണോ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതു?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: I do not think I said so. I said that the Forest Department has been endeavouring to recommend to Government the lease of swampy areas suitable for cultivation without endangering the surrounding forests as a temporary measure.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Has the honourable member had any occasion to prosecute any registry holder for having damaged the surrounding forest reserves ?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: Yes, Sir, registry holders have been found to set fire to the surrounding forests and they have been hauled up. Such cases have been detected and punished.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: സൌകര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളാണെങ്കിൽ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറുപറയുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൻറെ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഭാഗം റിസർവായിരിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar: റിസർവ് ഫാറസ്റ്റിനു ഉപദ്രവം ഉണ്ടാകാത്ത തരത്തിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നു കണ്ടാൽ അതു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുമെന്നാണു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു.

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For the time being we shall have to put up with a certain amount of injury to the forests. Food is more important now and there will be no subjects in the State if the required food cannot be found. The honourable member has raised the question of cultivation of certain grass lands. This question has also engaged the attention of the department. On certain representations received from the general public areas have been inspected and Government have generally approved of the cultivation of certain grass lands in the upper hilly regions above the belt of useful forests on condition that the land is terraced so as to prevent erosion. This matter is being investigated and the Government have ordered that the Director of Agriculture, the Conservator of Forests and the Chief Engineer should inspect these areas and prepare a proper scheme so as to enable people to cultivate them permanently without endangering the surface soil. Now-a-days in those areas almost every year the grass is being set fire to. After the fire what happens is that the very first rain carries down all the ashes and the burnt humus and the surface soil. This has been happening year after year with the result that in several places out crops of rock have exhibited themselves. Such areas are not particularly suited for the growth of valuable forest trees. In order to prevent the erosion which is now going on it is considered desirable that such land should be brought under cultivation but should be protected against erosion by proper bunding. This scheme is being considered and it is hoped that before long a proper scheme will be put into operation by Government.

The question that a sum of Rs. 11,73,320 be granted under Demand IV—Forest—was then put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,30,353 under Demand V—Registration.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : Sir, I support the demand with the satisfaction that the administration of the Department at present is very efficient. A number of useful circulars are being issued. But it is unfortunate that some Sub-Registrars misinterpret these circulars perhaps unintentionlly. For instance, there is a circular that the entire contents of a document must be in Malayalam. I know an instance where a document was returned without being registered on the ground that the endorsement by the vendor on the back of the paper contained the date and the number of the document in English figures. The poor man had to take back the document and had to get corrected the number and date into Malayalam. I cannot believe that the circular will be so unreasonable. If it is so it is high time that it is corrected.

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